Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00728 121647Z

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 NEA-06 IO-03

EB-03 DRC-01 EURE-00 INRE-00 /064 W
---------- 088455
O R 121615Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3609
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN
US MISSION UN 153

S E C R E T LUXEMBOURG 728

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EC, NATO, LU
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER THORN COMMENTS
ON EC AND NATO MATTERS

REF: A) STATE 198317, B) STATE 194296

1. IN AN OCTOBER 12 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER GASTON
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00728 121647Z

THORN I DISCUSSED CURRENT EC AND NATO MATTERS OF

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

INTEREST TO THE US.

2. OCTOBER 11-12 EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN COPENHAGEN
THORN SAID THAT MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR PIERRE WURTH
HAD JUST CALLED HIM FROM COPENHAGEN TO REPORT THAT THE
POLITICAL COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS ON THE EC REACTION
TO US AMENDMENTS TO THE EC DRAFT WERE PROGRESSING WELL.
THORN SAID THAT THE GENERAL REACTION AMONG THE EC
POLITICAL DIRECTORS TO THE US AMENDMENTS WAS POSITIVE.
IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, THORN REPLIED THAT FRANCE WAS
MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE "INSTITUTIONALIZATION"
OF US-EC RELATIONS THAN ABOUT SOME REFERENCE TO STRATEGIC
MATTERS IN THE DRAFT. THORN CITED PARAGRAPH 16 OF OUR
AMENDED DRAFT (AS RECEIVED IN REF (A)) WITH ITS
REFERENCES TO "CONSULTATIVE AND COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS"
AS THE PRINCIPAL POINT OF FRENCH CONTENTION. THORN
SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE US WOULD HAVE TO DEFINE ITS
CONCEPT OF TIES BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC MORE CLEARLY.

3. THORN ADDED THAT WURTH HAD CONFIRMED THAT THE EC
POLITICAL DIRECTORS WERE WORKING ON A COMMON DECLARATION
ON THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS ALTHOUGH THORN CONFIRMED THAT
THE DRAFTING OF THIS STATEMENT WAS NO EASY MATTER AS
REPORTED IN ROME 11038. WURTH SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAD
LIKELY BEEN PREVAILED UPON TO ACCEPT A VAGUE REFERENCE
TO THE NEED FOR "FACE TO FACE NEGOTIATIONS" BETWEEN THE
ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS. ALTHOUGH NO CALL FOR A SPECIFIC
DEFINITION OF CEASEFIRE TERMS WOULD BE PART OF THE EC
STATEMENT, THE NINE WOULD PROBABLY SUGGEST THAT A NEW
NEGOTIATING STRUCTURE BE CREATED TO SUPERVISE TALKS
BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS. THORN SAID THAT THIS
MEANT THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT IN THE NINE
THAT THE JARRING MISSION AND THE FOUR POWER CONSULTATIONS
ON THE MIDDLE EAST COULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE IN THE
PRESENT CONFLICT. IN DISCUSSING THE MIDDLE
EAST, THORN ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED THAT THE UN
WAS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE FORUM FOR THE INTERESTED PARTIES
TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT. WHILE IN NEW YORK THORN SAID HE
WAS "PARTICULARLY DISCOURAGED" AT WHAT HE TERMED THE
"FUTILITY" OF UN DEBATES. THORN ADDED THAT UN SECRETARY
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GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM WAS ALSO UPSET THAT HE COULD APPAR-
ENTLY PLAY NO USEFUL ROLE IN THE SETTLING OF MAJOR WORLD
DISPUTES LIKE THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. ACCORDING TO THRON'S
CONVERSATION WITH WALDHEIM, FOLLOWING LATTER'S RECENT TRIP
TO THE MIDDLE EAST, WALDHEIM HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT
THE EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS HAD NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF
LAUNCHING AN ATTACK ON ISRAEL.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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4. SOYBEAN CAP

I MADE THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REF (B) TO FOREIGN MINISTER THORN. THORN SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE SOYBEAN QUESTION WOULD NOT BE A MAJOR OBSTACE IN US-EC RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT IN TALKS BETWEEN THE US AND EC WE WOULD ALL AGREE THAT EACH PARTNER COULD SOMETIMES ENJOY A NATURAL ADVANTAGE IN CERTAIN PRODUCTION AREAS. THORN COMMENTED THAT THE EC, LIKE THE US, HAD PROBLEMS WITH ITS FARMERS BUT HE BELIEVED THAT AS FAR AS SOYBEANS WERE CONCERNED, IT WAS PERFECTLY NATURAL FOR THE US TO REMAIN THE EC'S PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER.

5. NATO

I ASKED THORN WHETHER HE BELIEVED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A SERIOUS DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN THE EC EIGHT AND THE EUROPEAN NON-EC MEMBERS OF NATO OVER THE SCOPE OF A NATO DECLARATION. THORN RESPONDED THAT IT WAS PERFECTLY NATURAL FOR THE EC MEMBERS OF NATO TO HOLD PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS INFORMALLY ON THEIR VIEWS OF A NATO DECLARATION. IN THE SAME VEIN HE CITED THE FREQUENT BENELUX DISCUSSIONS WHICH COORDINATE BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES OF THE THREE COUNTRIES. CONSULTATION, AMONG THE EC 8, DID NOT MEAN THAT THE NON-EC EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF NATO WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF A NATO DECLARATION. THORN SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THEIR CONCERNS AND WOULD DO HIS BEST TO TAKE THEM INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN IT CAME TO DRAFTING A NATO DECLARATION. FARKAS

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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